

REMARKS

Claims 13 and 15-25 are pending in the present application. None of the claims were amended in this response.

Claims 13 and 15-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, claims 13 and 21 were alleged to recite three different types of movements (i.e., rotating, tilting, pressing), while the specification describes only two movements (i.e., rotating and tilting). Applicants submit that the movements recited in the present claims are disclosed in the specification, for example, in FIGs. 1-2 and associated text (pages 5-6 of amended specification), where sensors 18 and 19 determine a pressing movement or tilting of the actuator wheel 11. In other words, the tilting of the wheel occurs in one direction, while the pressing movement occurs in the opposite direction of the substantially perpendicular plane. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 be withdrawn.

Claims 13-18, and 20-21 were previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Pruchniak* (US Patent 6,075,518). Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pruchniak* (US Patent 6,075,518) in view of *Rosenberg* (US Patent No. 6,128,006). Claims 22-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pruchniak* (US Patent 6,075,518) in view of *Whitmore* (US Patent No. 6,108,277). Claims 2-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pruchniak* (US Patent 6,075,518) in view of *Iijima et al.* (US Patent No. 6,359,668). Applicant traverses these rejections. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Specifically, none of the cited art, alone or in combination, discloses “an actuator wheel supported axially on a bearing so that tilting movement of the actuator wheel out of the plane of the rotary movement on both sides is made possible” as recited in claim 13, and similarly in claim 21.

Regarding *Pruchniak*, the reference teaches that the rotating member 50 may be tilted along the axis of control arm 40 to actuate either of two switches (34) located in the housing (col. 3, lines 48-55; col. 4, line 58 - col. 5, line 5). In other words, *Pruchniak* teaches a rotating member that has a rotation that is perpendicular relative to the support arm, and a tilting that is parallel relative to the support arm (see col. 5, lines 51-59). However *Pruchniak* does not teach

the actuator wheel being supported axially on a bearing so that tilting movement of the actuator wheel out of the plane of the rotary movement on both sides is made possible. The configuration of the rotating member 50 in *Pruchniak* is mounted through control arm 40, having a fulcrum point 22 in FIG. 1 that is located at a wholly separate portion of the support arm 20 (col. 3, lines 20-34). Furthermore, the fulcrum point 22 is disclosed in *Pruchniak* as having a hole (see FIG. 2) located in between ends of support arms (24, 26), which presumably accepts a secondary support which stabilizes support arm 20. Alternately, the fulcrum point could be interpreted as a pivot point for the rounded portion of support arm 30. Either way, *Pruchniak* does not show a bearing structure that axially supports the actuator wheel and provides a tilting movement therefore. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

For the same reasons give above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 are also improper and should be withdrawn.

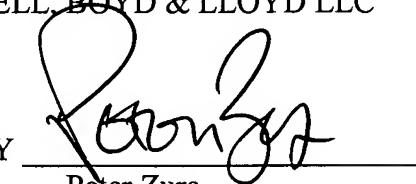
Furthermore, claim 21 recite features that are in means-plus-function format. The "broadest reasonable interpretation" that an examiner may give means-plus-function language is that statutorily mandated in paragraph six. 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph states that a claim limitation expressed in means-plus-function language "shall be construed to cover the corresponding structure described in the specification and equivalents thereof." Accordingly, the PTO may not disregard the structure disclosed in the specification corresponding to such language when rendering a patentability determination (see MPEP 2181).

In light of the above amendments and arguments, Applicant submits that the present claims are allowable over the prior art. Applicant also requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should there be any charges regarding this application, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account 02-1818 for any insufficiency of payment.

Respectfully submitted,

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